

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 09043

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, BE

SUBJECT: KING BAUDOUIN WILL MAKE PRIVATE VISIT TO U.S. IN 1976

1. IN COURSE OF CALL ON ME TODAY GRAND MARSHAL OF THE COURT LIEBAERS INFORMED ME THAT KING BAUDOUIN AND QUEEN FABIOLA INTEND TO VISIT U.S. PRIVATELY IN MARCH, 1976. LIEBAERS SAID PARTY WILL TOTAL ABOUT SIX PEOPLE, INCLUDING KING AND QUEEN AND ONE PALACE SECURITY MAN.

2. LIEBAERS SAID ROYAL COUPLE HAS IN MIND SIMILAR PRIVATE VISITS TO U.S. IN 1977 AND 1978. HE SAID 1976 TRIP WILL PROBABLY FOCUS ON EAST COAST, THE SECOND ON WEST COAST AND THE THIRD ON MIDWEST. MAIN EVENT OF THE 1976 TRIP IS TO BE A VISIT TO YALE UNIVERSITY WHERE BELGIAN-BORN ROBERT TRIFFIN IS A DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR. KING IS PERSONALLY CLOSE TO TRIFFIN, WHO WILL RETIRE TO BELGIUM IN JUNE, 1976.

3. IN RESPONSE TO LIEBAERS QUERIES, I SUGGESTED THAT A VISIT TO A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY MIGHT COMPLEMENT THE STOP AT YALE AND MENTIONED PRESIDENT'S ALMA MATER, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, OR UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AS POSSIBILITIES. I POINTED OUT THAT A VISIT TO INDEPENDENCE HALL AND POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN OTHER BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES (IN WHICH LIEBAERS APPEARED TO BE INTERESTED) MIGHT BE TIED IN MOST EASILY WITH VISIT TO THE LATTER UNIVERSITY.

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4. LIEBAERS SAID HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH THE KING TODAY TO DISCUSS THESE AND SIMILAR IDEAS HE HAD OBTAINED FROM BELGIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND THEIR CONGEN IN NEW YORK. HE SAID HE WOULD BE IN CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY AGAIN AS THE KING'S PLANS ARE FURTHER DEFINED.

5. COMMENT: I TOOK LIEBAERS CALL AS INTENDED TO INFORM US OFFICIALLY OF KING'S INTENTION, WHICH WE HAD BEEN AWARE OF INFORMALLY FOR SOME TIME. LIEBAERS MADE NO REQUESTS ON BEHALF OF THE KING. IF DEPARTMENT WISHES TO FEED ANY IDEAS INTO HIS SCHEDULE PLANNING, PLEASE ADVISE US IN GOOD TIME. FIRESTONE

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